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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/510,056

10/04/2004

Frank Dumont

PA020009

6324

24498 7590 11/01/2007

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EXAMINER

MEYERS, JAMES A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,056

Applicant(s)

DUMONT ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Meyers

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment dated August 22, 2007. Claims 1-12 are pending and have been considered below.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed August 22, 2007, with regards to determining a characteristic of a video signal, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Spiero et al. (US 5,349,391) does teach the determination of a characteristic of a video signal from a control signal. As seen in column 15, lines 33-53, a generator responds to control signals that indicate the various signal components of the input video signals.
2. Applicant's other arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

3. Based on the amendment dated August 22, 2007, all objections to the drawings are withdrawn.

Specification

4. Based on the amendment dated August 22, 2007, all previous objections to the specification are withdrawn.
5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spiero et al. (US 5,349,391) in view of Shen (US 6,231,379).

Claim 1: Spiero discloses a video apparatus comprising:

(a) a connector for receiving a video signal (column 1, line 45 to column 2, line 13);

(b) transmission means coupling the first pin and the second pin to a video circuit able to operate with the first type of video signal and the second type of video signal (column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 2);

(c) detection means connected to the third pin for determining a characteristic of the video signal based on the indicative signal (column 15, lines 33-53); and

(d) control means responsive to the characteristic for sending a control signal whereby the video circuit is forced to operate with one of said first and second types of video signal (column 2, lines 40-45; column 3, lines 12-33).

While Spiero does not explicitly disclose that a single connector contains three signals on at least three pins, wherein two are video signals and a third is a defining signal (he discloses a SCART connector (column 1, lines 45-55), which has 21 pins, transmission of a CVBS signal on pin 19 and transmission of an RGB signal on pins 15, 11 and 7 (column 2, lines 1-13), and a control line on pins 8 or 10 (column 1, lines 56-59 and column 15, lines 16-32) that carries a signal indicative of which types of video signal defines the video signal at a given point in time (i.e. when a switch is desired). Additionally, it was well known in the art at the time of invention to have a single connector that was capable of transferring two types of video signals simultaneously, as seen in Shen (column 2, lines 3-5; figure 5 A/B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have a single connector with at least a first pin carrying a first type of video signal, at least a second pin carrying a second type of video signal and at least a third pin carrying a signal indicative of which of the types of video signals defines the video signal at a given point in time. One would have been motivated to do so to reduce the number of connectors necessary on each apparatus, and to facilitate passing the signals to distant apparatuses, as taught by Spiero (column 2, lines 46-64).

Claim 2: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the pin containing the defining signal is coupled to the video circuit as a switch, where the switch is controlled by the control signal (column 10, lines 1-9).

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Claim 3: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the control means and the video circuit are linked via a bus able to carry the control circuit (column 11, lines 51-59).

Claim 4: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 3 above, and Spiero further discloses that the control means have means to modify parameters in the video circuit to force operation in one type of video signal (column 10, line 57 to column 11, line 18).

Claim 5: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the control means has means to modify parameters in the video circuit thereby altering video processing by the video circuit (column 10, line 57 to column 11, line 18).

Claim 6: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the video circuit comprises means for recording the video signal (column 5, lines 31-41).

Claim 7: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 6 above, and Spiero further discloses that the control means is further responsive to a selection made by the user (column 6, lines 19-27).

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Claim 8: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the video circuit comprises means to convert the video signal into a digital stream (column 5, lines 8-18).

Claim 9: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 8 above, and Spiero further discloses that the video circuit is a video decoder (satellite decoder, column 5, lines 8-18).

Claim 10: Spiero and Shen disclose an apparatus as in Claim 1 above, and Spiero further discloses that the video circuit comprises a display (column 5, lines 1-17).

Claim 11: Spiero discloses a method of receiving video signals in a video apparatus comprising:

- (a) receiving a video signal (column 1, line 45 to column 2, line 13);
- (b) receiving a signal indicative of which of a first type of video signal and a second type of video signal defines the video signal at a given point in time (column 1, lines 56-59 and column 15, lines 16-32);
- (c) coupling the first type of video signal and the second type of video signal to a video circuit operable with at least the two types of video signals (column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 2);
- (d) determining a characteristic of the video signal based on the indicative signal (column 15, lines 33-53); and

(e) sending a control signal, responsive to said characteristic of the video signal, forcing the video circuit to operate with one of the types of video signal (column 2, lines 40-45; column 3, lines 12-33).

While Spiero does not explicitly disclose that both types of video signals are sent at the time same time, it was well known in the art at the time of invention that two video signals could be sent to a single device simultaneously (Shen: column 2, lines 3-5; figure 5 A/B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention that a single "signal" could contain a first and second type of video signal. One would have been motivated to send the signals in this manner to reduce the number of incoming signal lines to the video circuit.

Claim 12: Spiero and Shen disclose a method as in Claim 11 above, and Spiero further discloses that the video circuit selects between the two types of video signals responsive to the indicative and control signals (column 10, lines 1-9).

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

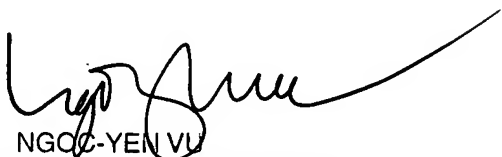
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Meyers whose telephone number is (571) 270-1690. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

10/22/2007
JM


NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER